



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

SECOND SUNDAY BEFORE LENT
Sunday 12 February 2023

We are now able to receive the wine at communion. There will be a chalice on your left for those who wish to receive by drinking, and on your right for those who wish to receive by dipping their wafer in the wine. You are also welcome to just receive the bread.

Hymns are: CP253 For the beauty of the Earth, CP254 For the fruits of his creation, CP262 O Lord my God, CP250 All creatures of our God and King omit 5&6.

For your prayers this week:

The earthquake in Turkey and Syria:

People injured, bereaved, traumatised and made homeless
The emergency and rescue services
Organisations funding humanitarian aid
Local and government relief efforts
The work of making buildings and neighbourhoods safe
International relief efforts
Turkish and Syrian people in Watford
Anyone who has family and friends in the earthquake area
The souls of people killed.

The Ill and the Housebound: Especially Jean Alexander, Violet Allen-Smith, Julie Alvarez, Andy Benoy, Janet Chandler, Jemima Hill, Kristine Jenkins, Lisa Mills, Josephine Stadden, Catherine Stone, Fay Storey, Adelaide Tonkin, and all who care for them.

The Departed:

Collect

Almighty God, you have created the heavens and the earth and made us in your own image:
teach us to discern your hand in all your works and your likeness in all your children;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit reigns supreme over all things, now and for ever.

FIRST READING Genesis 1.1 – 2.3

The story of the Creation .(appended at end)

SECOND READING Romans 8.18–25

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

- ¹⁸ I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us.
- ¹⁹ For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God;
- ²⁰ for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it,
- ²¹ in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God.
- ²² We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labour pains until now;
- ²³ and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.
- ²⁴ For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen?
- ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

GOSPEL Matthew 6.25–34

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

Jesus taught his disciples, saying:

25 ‘Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?

26 Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?

27 And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life?

28 And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin,

29 yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these.

30 But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you – you of little faith?

31 Therefore do not worry, saying, “What will we eat?” or “What will we drink?” or “What will we wear?”

32 For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things.

33 But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

34 So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today’s trouble is enough for today.

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Our service today for the Second Sunday before Lent is available to attend in person
or via livestream on our YouTube channel

“St Michael’s Church Watford”

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC8GTx0MfiICGmcDUkXTGFSw>

There will not be a 10.00am Eucharist on Thursday 16 February.

The Church will be open for tea and coffee on Wednesday mornings from
10.00am – 12.00 noon.

We are asking opinions from the congregation about whether a starting
time of 10.00am would be more helpful. There is a sheet at the back of
Church for you to let us know either way.

Lent is fast approaching! The Lent course this year will be following the
theme “Jesus’ teaching for our daily lives today”.

There are several weekdays and times of day when we could meet, with the
possibility of meeting in person or online.

There is a list at the back of Church on which you can express your
availability. We are looking at having two sessions on the same material
each week.

An apology in advance – we probably won’t be able to accommodate
everybody’s wishes, so please give as wide a range of alternatives as
possible.

A Date for your Diary

The second Annual St Michael’s Quiz will be held on Saturday 10th June,
with the questions starting at 7.30p.m.

More details to follow but please keep the date free, start recruiting your
team (up to 8 in a team) and watch all the quiz programmes you can to get
into training!

FIRST READING Genesis 1.1 – 2.3 The story of the Creation

A reading from the book of Genesis.

- 1 In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth,
- 2 the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters.
- 3 Then God said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light.
- 4 And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness.
- 5 God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.
- 6 And God said, 'Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.'
- 7 So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so.
- 8 God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.
- 9 And God said, 'Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.' And it was so.
- 10 God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good.
- 11 Then God said, 'Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it.' And it was so.
- 12 The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good.
- 13 And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.
- 14 And God said, 'Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years,
- 15 and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth.' And it was so.
- 16 God made the two great lights – the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night – and the stars.
- 17 God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth,
- 18 to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good.
- 19 And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

20 And God said, 'Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures,
and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky.'

21 So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that
moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every
winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

22 God blessed them, saying, 'Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters
in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.'

23 And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

24 And God said, 'Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind:
cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind.'
And it was so.

25 God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle
of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every
kind. And God saw that it was good.

26 Then God said, 'Let us make humankind in our image, according to
our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea,
and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild
animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon
the earth.'

27 So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he
created them; male and female he created them.

28 God blessed them, and God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply,
and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of
the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that
moves upon the earth.'

29 God said, 'See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon
the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you
shall have them for food.

30 And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to
everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of
life, I have given every green plant for food.' And it was so.

31 God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good.
And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

1 Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude.

2 And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and
he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done.

3 So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God
rested from all the work that he had done in creation.